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COUNTRY Lebanon

Closing of Ba'albak Camp and Disposition of

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SUBJECT

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. The concentration camp at Ba'albek, Lebanon, will be closed shortly. The Lebanese internees have been taken to the Beirut prison, where they will remain until they are brought to trial. Charges against them are being prepared by the Lebanese Sureté. The latter has conclusive evidence that Mustafa 'Aris, a Lebanese Communist leader and head of the Federation of Labor Unions, was responsible for the demonstrations in front of the UNESCO Conference buildings.

there has been strong pressure on Farid Shihab, Director of the Lebanese Surete, for 'Aris' release, and it is possible that pressure for the

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2. Marie Bashabazian, one of the two most prominent women Communists in Lebanon, was taken to prison in Beirut from Dekwaneh, Lebanon. Source claims that Gabriel Furr, Lebanese Minister of Interior, asked Farid Shihab to release Mrs. Bashabazian. Shihab is reported to have told Murr that if he wished to release her, he would have to do it himself, as he, Shihab, would not be responsible.

release of all the Communists may be strong enough to prevent their

3. Concerning the foreign internees, suspected Soviet agent, has been returned to the Soviet Union.

Harry Anzac, alias Platkin, still remains at Ba'albek, but will be released soon. Anzac, now over seventy years of age, is not considered to be a menace, now that his restaurant, formerly used as a Soviet letter box, has been closed. Several other foreigners, mostly refugee Slavs from Palestine are still in Ba'albek, but will be released soon. The Lebanese Sureté considers none to be of any intelligence interest, with the exception of a Pole, Bronislaw Stofanowski, who may have worked for the British and other services in Palestine, but probably not for any of the pro-Soviet services, source states.

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a certain Stefanovski (fmu), who may be identical with Bronislan Stefanowski, was said to visit the Soviet Legation in Beirut sometimes in the

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trial.

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